

PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECTS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting on February 24, 2016

Members attending: Debby Brehm, Jon Camp, Dick Campbell, Tom Casady, Tyler Mainquist, John Miles, Mike Rogers, Tracy Sanford, Rick Carter, Liz Standish.

Members absent: Deb Schorr, Cathy Beecham, Doug Emery

Others present: Radio Users Group

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Chair Debby Brehm with an acknowledgement that the meeting falls within the Open Meetings Act. Introductions followed.

1. Motion by Dick Campbell, second by Tom Casady that minutes of the June 24, 2015 be approved with the suggested correction that Mike Rogers' name appear only once as a member present. Motion carried.

2. Tom Casady provided some background around the bids received on the new radio system. Motorola submitted two bids – a base line bid at \$9,586,681 and an alternate bid for \$9,012,681, which would require Lincoln to share the State's core. RACOM, offering a Harris system (the same brand currently used by the City/County), submitted a bid of \$12,859,027. The users were very impressed with the bottom line from both companies, considering that the original cost estimate for the total project was \$20,500,000.

He indicated that the Radio System User Committee reviewed those bids and has recommended the oversight committee suggest accepting the Motorola bid and enter into discussions with the State to determine if the alternate bid is satisfactory from a technical and operational standpoint, and whether the City and State can come to a mutually-acceptable agreement. Casady felt he would be prepared to approach the State in about a week. Casady also reported that the users group felt either bid from Motorola represents the best value for the City, although both companies provided impressive proposals. Bottom line, however, was that the group didn't feel it could recommend Harris (RACOM), simply because of the cost differential.

Dick Campbell asked if sharing a core with the State system would require the City to pay a portion of the cost of that core. Casady advised that would be one reason for the meeting with the State before making a final decision on which proposal from Motorola to use. Campbell also asked if there would be a problem with poor reception areas currently found in the state. Casady indicated he didn't think so, as the new system under all proposals would utilize the City's 800 MHz infrastructure as opposed to the State's VHF infrastructure.

Casady did advise, however, that there is some discomfort within the users group concerning the state core. For instance, would they have full control over talk groups and user ID's or would the State not

allow that amount of flexibility? There was also a concern over a point of failure of the State core, however, network connectivity is something the City would be able to handle. He feels the City may be able to enter into a strong agreement, leaving an option for a friendly parting later, if need be.

Jon Camp asked if there is a promise of a 20-year life with the Motorola product. Casady indicated there is no promise of a specific life span, however, the current system has been operational for 30 years. He suggested that it would be unlikely for the new system to last that long.

Tracy Sanford asked if other agencies who currently use Motorola were questioned concerning their satisfaction. Casady answered that Omaha Police, Douglas County Sheriff, the State of Nebraska are all Motorola users, and that entities in Maryland and Ohio were contacted as references, and expressed satisfaction with Motorola systems.

Sanford inquired, if the second bid from Motorola is used (with the City utilizing the State's core), and a "divorce" ensues, how would the funding of the purchase of a core be obtained? Casady advised that it would be as simple as buying two cores to put in place, at a cost a few hundred thousands of dollars, plus the cost of maintaining them.

Casady went on to explain that regardless of the bid selected, the non-city users (which would account for approximately 1/3 of the total users) would either buy radios from the City or do a lease/purchase agreement with the underlying goal of making sure the non-city users can participate as much as possible. The cost of the subscriber radios is part of the \$9 million bid. He went on to explain that the bids submitted were so low, compared to the original estimated cost, because the City was offered some very deep discounts and incentives. (Motorola's list price on the system we would use is \$21.9 million.) These discounts would be passed along to the non-city users as well. It's also anticipated that the cost of annual expenses could be reduced as well.

A motion was then made by Dick Campbell, second by Jon Camp, that, based upon the radio users group review of the two proposals and their recommendation of acceptance of the Motorola bid, that the Public Safety Projects Oversight Committee ratify that recommendation, also authorizing the City enter into discussions with the State to determine if the alternate bid is satisfactory from a technical and operational standpoint, and whether the City and State can come to a mutually-acceptable agreement, and contract negotiations with Motorola. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Director Casady advised he would notify Mayor Beutler of this decision.

4. A third month of sales tax revenue (from December 2015) has been received with the current total now at \$3.1 million. The third month's revenue was a bit larger than the first two, most likely due to the Holiday shopping season. Director Casady indicated he has spoken with Steve Hubka, who feels confident that subsequent months' revenue will remain on track – approximately \$1 million/month.

5. A public website has been developed within InterLinc where minutes and agenda of these meetings is posted as well as revenue and expenditures for the Public Safety sales and use tax:

<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/safety/#s>

6. Lincoln Fire & Rescue Assistant Chief Pat Borer was on hand to give an update regarding the status of the fire station land acquisition. He indicated that although the City is in negotiations with two land owners at the present time, concerning four separate properties, for two stations, no land has been acquired yet. The City has a real estate agent that A/C Borer is working with and appraisals have been done for each property considered.

Director Casady indicated that the cost for the fire stations may be higher than the 2014 estimates. In some cases, there is no land available within the target areas. In other cases, there may be more land available than what was estimated as a need, creating the possibility that the City may have to purchase more land than what is actually needed, simply because a seller may not want to split land.

Dick Campbell asked if the City can exercise the use of eminent domain. Both Borer and Casady indicated the City does have that ability, but it's not a preferred option at this time. The City would prefer to buy land from a willing seller if possible.

Campbell also reminded those in attendance that the committee promised the citizens leading up to the ballot vote that this project would be a "pay-as-you-go" project and feels it's important to honor that promise. Casady feels that can still be done, as there will be about \$4.1 million in tax revenue by the April 1st deadline. The fire station projects will need to wait until the radio system is paid for. This creates a problem, as the city continues to grow each day, but there's no way to fund both projects at the same time. He did remind everyone that, due to the fact that the radio bids came in much lower than expected, this will speed up the rate of payment for that project, which will, in turn, speed up the fire station project.

Jon Camp asked what the time line is to have the new radio system up and running. Casady indicated the new system should be operational in about one year.

Dick Campbell indicated that with the ballot question put to the voters, a question was asked of the Mayor if he would use excess money to purchase fire trucks and wondered if this was possible. Jon Camp advised that would not be possible – that it was not part of the ballot question.

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 PM.